

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXX NUMBER 5

MAY 2022

EBARC Meetings

May 13, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

TBA

Check your email for Zoom link



The Executive Board meets monthly before each general meeting. For the date, time, & location, contact officers at EBHam.office@gmail.com.

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The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for Jun. issue: Tues., May. 24th

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to
aa6xz@earthlink.net.

May 13th EBARC Meeting

The general EBARC meeting will again be held as a virtual Zoom meeting only. The Zoom link will be sent via email and be posted on ebarc.org. We hope you join us! Because of the pandemic, future meetings for (TBD) more months will also be held via Zoom.

April 2022 General Minutes Todd Teachout, W8BIK, Secretary

The EBARC General Meeting was held April 8, 2022, virtually, via the Zoom internet conferencing application, as a result of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. A Zoom meeting invite was distributed via e-mail on 4/8/2022. An agenda was sent out via e-mail also on 4/8/2022. 25 people attended. President Chris, called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

1st VP, Katie Carney, welcomed new visitor, Patrick Riordan, from Albany, who reports knowing Morse Code at a rate of 15 words per minute. He needs help to do more CW practice as well as to get advice about acquiring an appropriate transceiver to operate

via CW. He also hopes to become a licensed amateur radio operator. Member Don Simon offered to assist Patrick.

Other visitors include Diane Richwine and David Swanson from Richmond, then Jessica Bart-Williams, KN6STJ, with daughter Isabel from Rodeo. Jessica just recently earned her technician license.

Officer Reports:

2nd VP-Membership/Newsletter/VE Testing: Sharon Primbsch reported the deadline for articles for the May 2022 *Blown Fuse* newsletter is noted in the newsletter (April 26th). No new members joined EBARC in the last month though she encouraged visitors interested in joining EBARC to contact her at EBHam.office@gmail.com. [One member renewed last month – Editor] Due to pandemic restrictions the April VE radio operator licensing test session will not occur. A pandemic-safe venue has not been located for doing inside sit-down tests.

Secretary: Todd Teachout reported that the draft March 2022 EBARC general meeting minutes were published in the April 2022 *Blown Fuse* newsletter. He reported receiving no correction requests. He recommended the attendees approved the minutes. Katie Carney motioned that the group approve the March minutes. Sharon Primbsch seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by affirmation.

Treasurer: Treasurer, Audrey Nieman, was absent but forwarded a report to Chris. Chris reported that Audrey's February report is in the April *Blown Fuse* newsletter. To recap, the February beginning balance was \$12,137.25. The club had \$120.00 in revenue from membership dues. The club earned \$0.03 interest on deposits. The club had expenses of \$319.00, of which \$103.00 was for storage space rental and was \$216.00 for post office box rental. The ending balance is \$11,938.28 (of which \$5,000.00 is held in a Certificate of

Deposit and \$40.00 is petty cash). Additionally, Audrey through Chris, reported receiving \$60 in revenue from membership renewals and a \$50 expense to reimburse Chris for the club donation to Disabled Veterans of American in remembrance of Lillian Fowler. Audrey prepared and e-filed the annual federal tax return. It was reported that the club owed no taxes. A copy of the return is stored at EBHam.office on the Google drive. The club now accepts electronic payments through PayPal. Funds should be sent to treasurer@ebarc.org. People sending funds are encouraged to edit the note area in PayPal to identify the sender (including callsign, name, email, and what the payment is for).

Larry Rosenthal expressed concern that PayPal charges a fee. Chris and others reported that hasn't happened, yet. Payment of dues to a nonprofit service corporation like EBARC does not incur a PayPal fee.

1st VP Programs: 1st VP Katie indicated that 2nd VP Sharon Primbsch, will give a presentation today about "It takes a Village...", about the take down of the antennas and tower at her home. An effort is being made to have a presentation about space weather at the May meeting, from a person who works at the National Space Weather Service in Boulder, Colorado.

President: Chris Harwood brought up the topic of Field Day 2022. See New Business for more discussion.

Old Business In-person Meeting Place: not discussed.

New Business- Field Day 2022, Katie mentioned that Field Day 2022 will occur on June 25 and 26th. Field Day has been the club's big event each year. She advised attendees about past Field Days which the club set up and operated stations with CW, single sideband, UHF/VHF, and digital modes most recently (pre-pandemic-2019) at Caesar Chavez Park in Berkeley. The event, a

contest, encourages participants to operate using portable/mobile equipment that uses low power and functions off the power grid. She reminded attendees that Field Day 2021 was a collaborative exercise with the KARO-ECHO radio club. The 2021 event was held during the daytime on Saturday and happened at Canyon Trail Park in El Cerrito. Katie/Chris setup an EBARC W6CUS SSB station and operated as a Get On The Air (GOTA) station welcoming anyone curious about radio to operate. The Fenton's ran an EmComm Demonstration table, KARO-ECHO members operated as W6ECK with stations set up to operate in digital modes as well as in CW/Morse Code mode.

In March, Katie put a call out for volunteers for 2022. She reported a good response. Katie also reported that no respondent stepped up to lead the effort for an EBARC event. One of the responses was from member Howdy Goudey, who is also the President of KARO-ECHO this year. He suggested partnering again for 2022. EBARC has resources to set up, take down, and operate. KARO-ECHO has resources to plan and organize. Partnering with KARO-ECHO, likely means that the event location will be in El Cerrito. KARO-ECHO would welcome help to operate at all of the stations. KARO-ECHO's planning efforts are in early stages as are EBARC's.

Martha Richards, who also belongs to the NALCO radio club, reported that she is looking into locations in Berkeley, particularly Caesar Chavez Park (near the Berkeley Marina), to do Field Day 2022 for that club. She will report her findings about operating venues to EBARC.

Katie indicated she would be attending the KARO-ECHO meeting on 4/11/2022 to discuss Field Day and she would report back. At the moment it is unclear what other nearby clubs are intending to do for Field Day 2022. **People interested in helping out or otherwise participating should contact Katie (programs@ebarc.org).**

Robin Spalding indicated that Field Day gives members an opportunity and reason to operate their radios. Robin also reminded members that the rules for 2022 will be similar to 2021, which allows people to operate and get Field Day operating credit while getting on the air from their home shacks. This rule can allow members to operate as individuals from their home and take credit for contacting the club station, W6CUS. These operators could then go to the Field Day operating site and help work W6CUS and/or W6ECK stations, too.

Mark Gilligan suggested Field Day provides motivation for people to advance their knowledge of radio technology, allowing them to set up and create their mobile shacks or to adjust their shacks. It provides a reason to add or remove devices, software, and operating modes they'd like to try to use.

Announcements

1. Open Shack Day at President Chris' QTH on April 10. This will coincide with the ARRL Rookie Roundup HF contest. The April 10th event will feature single sideband operation, and contacts will be logged on one of the HamPi logging applications. Chris's home will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., PDT. The ARRL contest runs from 1800 to 2359 UTC (11:00 a.m. to 5:59 p.m. PDT).
2. Happy Earth Month (April). Happy Earth Day (April 22, 2022)
3. David Shaw, WB6WTM, is involved with the Boy Scouts. He reached out to EBARC for assistance for a 20 mile hike in Tilden Park that is being organized. The Scouts need radio operators for possible emergency help, as well as to communicate progress of the hikers as they make their way through the park. Interested people are encouraged to contact David directly at daves@2geeks.org. EBARC members

have in the past assisted the Scouts. Dave is hoping EBARC members can assist this year as well.

Program

President Chris introduced 2nd V.P. Membership Chair, Blown Fuse Editor, Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ. Sharon immediately began to discuss her presentation, "It Takes a Village to Raze a Tower," which illustrates and details the recent take down of her antenna from her home. The effort included the removal of three antennas as well as the disassembly of her tower which supported and elevated the antennas.

Jay Fenton lead the team and found ten volunteers. David Naisuler did the tower climbing and key disassembly steps. The team removed a single wire 80m/160m dipole antenna which was connected at the tower but spanned across the roof. Next to be removed was a vertical UHF/VHF antenna, then an HF Yagi, then the tower.

The operation depended on the use of a Rohn brand gin pole which extended past the top of the tower to allow lifting of antenna parts above their installed positions. David was well equipped with helmet, harness, gloves, boots, many ropes and clips, as well as wrenches, sockets, and a hammer. David fabricated a wood brace to function as a cradle for the Yagi main beam. A rope secured at the roof level was routed through a pulley at the top of the gin pole then connected on one end to the Yagi cradle. The bulky antenna was lifted from the rotator high above the ground and the top section of the tower. Once removed, the cradle facilitated well-controlled lowering of the Yagi to the roof, where other volunteers disassembled it into manageable sized members. The parts were then handed to others on the ground.

Jay Fenton fabricated two plywood plates that fit between the tower truss members. Once installed between tower sections, the plates

allowed the fitting and use of an automobile scissor jack. The assembly provided the force in the appropriate locations to separate the tower members from each other, once unbolted.

The top section provided the greatest challenge. Not only was it nearly 40 feet above the ground, it contained a rotor which added weight and changed the center of gravity of the section. With the success of the Yagi lowering, David removed and re-set the gin pole to a lower section. The gin pole rope was untied from the now lowered Yagi cradle then tied to the top tower section at a location near the center of gravity. The top tower section was unbolted. The plates and jack were inserted at the joint between the top section and the middle section. The jack provided the force to slowly separate the sections. In the process volunteers on the roof pulled on the rope routed to the gin pole pulley to transfer the load of top section off the lower sections. This top section also had other ropes to allow the section to be fully controlled while being lowered. The top section, with rotor, was lowered to the roof and then moved to the ground.

This process was repeated for the separation of a 10' middle section and then again for a shorter section until the remaining 10' lower section to the ground was left.

Sharon and her (SK) husband Henry had created a foundation using a short section of tower imbedded into a block of concrete approximately 3' on a side. The lower section was bolted to the imbedded section. This lower section was also bolted to a brace at the roof eave. Volunteers unbolted the lower tower section from the roof brace and the imbedded section. Being near the ground, the lower section was lifted off the imbedded section by physical exertion of a few volunteers. Once removed, Jay Fenton cut off the portions of the imbedded section that remained above the foundation level to eliminate a trip hazard.

The project was started one Sunday in late February 2022 but was postponed due to increasing winds. It was finished the following Sunday and took approximately 5 hours. Sharon treated volunteers to pizza and gifted antenna parts to some volunteers. Jay Fenton claimed the tower, Jay Sparks claimed the VHF/UHF antenna, Chris Harwood claimed the Yagi and rotor, and Todd Teachout claimed the 80m/160m dipole.

The tower was installed because Sharon's late husband, Henry, accepted a research assignment in Antarctica to study x-rays believed to be coming from a supernova. The Space Sciences Lab of UC Berkeley staff, which Henry was a member of, were releasing and tracking balloons circling around the south pole to take measurements. HF ham radio was found to be a viable way to communicate regularly. The antenna and shack was set up in 1990 and used for several 2-month trips over a few years. Sharon and Henry went from unlicensed to extra class licensees in a 9-month period in 1990 during the time when CW comprehension of at least 20 words per minute was a license requirement. Sharon relied mostly on single sideband 15 meter communication with Henry. She got comfortable with the static that comes with trying to communicate over such long distances, as well as with traffic that comes with amateur radio operating. She augmented her station with a 1000 watt amplifier to assist. From time to time she would help others trying to communicate from Antarctica by doing phone patches from her shack.

Sharon wanted to take down the tower because she hasn't been using her station very much since her husband returned then passed away. The shack has not been used for the past 20 years. She typically operates from Field Day instead of her shack. She didn't want to leave a tower removal project to her children. She is currently trying to sell remaining parts of her station through word of mouth, e-mail offers, and also using eBay.

Sharon expressed great appreciation for the efforts of the volunteers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. Next meeting is May 13, 2022.

Yet More Righting Rules for Editors

Shy away from cliches like the plague.

*Parenthetical remarks (however useful) are
(usually) unnecessary.*

*Parenthetical words however should be enclosed in
commas.*

Paying EBARC Electronically

you can now send electronic payments to EBARC via PayPal. Funds should be sent to treasurer@ebarc.org. Edit the note area in PayPal to identify yourself (including callsign) and what the payment is for.

Many thanks to Michael McMillan, K6MCM, for preafrooding this month's *Blown Fuse*.

Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See www.ebarc.org, click on "Current Events", then scroll to "Calendar of Bay Area Ham Radio Public Service Events."
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio test sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. in the Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 16th St.), Oakland. Because of COVID, the 2022 dates have not been set. The fee is \$15. Candidates must preregister at davidotey@comcast.net or call 510-741-8227.
- East Bay Section ARRL ARES; arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/eb. CoCoCo ACS Training: Details from "DJ" djovida, KJ6DJ, kj6dj@arrl.net, (415) 215-6658, or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz. Also see Sheriff Office's Communications Unit David Nielson, K6CDN, davidnielson@yahoo.com

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$30 for individual membership, \$35 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, send email to ebham.office@gmail.com, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page www.ebarc.org, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus, or on Facebook's "East Bay Amateur Radio Club."

2022 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Chris Harwood, AA6AT, President president@ebarc.org
 Katie Carney, KN6APB, 1st VP / Program Chair 510-326-3886
 Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 2nd VP / Membership Chair 510-741-8227
 Todd Teachout, W8BIK, Secretary 510-799-6051
 Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treasurer / Finance Chair 510-682-7938

2022 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

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Blown Fuse Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ 510-741-8227
 W6CUS Trustee: Chris Harwood, AA6AT president@ebarc.org
 Webmaster: Chris Harwood, AA6AT president@ebarc.org

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Contra Costa Com. Club Digital Net (by arrangement)	Tue*	1900 (PL 82.5+)	444.275
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Tue	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
"QRM Net"	Tue	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 st Wed	1200 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 st Wed	1200 (PL 107.2-)	145.490
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 st Wed	1200 simplex	145.430
UCB ARC (W6BB) Club Net	Wed	1900 (PL 103.5+)	442.275
West Contra Costa EMCOMM Net	Thu	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
KARO/ECHO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	~1900 simplex	146.415
NALCO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thu	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thu	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0900 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0915 (PL 82.5+)	444.275
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300

ACS West CoCoCo: "DJ" djovida, KJ6DJ, kj6dj@arrl.net, (415) 215-6658.*
 Frequencies: #1=145.110, #2=147.570s.